

Attention Committee Secretary

I wish to make a submission regarding the use of mobility scooters. I live in Northern NSW and over the past few years I have had numerous near misses with scooters.

The most recent event was earlier this week when I was outside a supermarket in Ballina when a woman suddenly put her scooter in reverse and I had to quickly jump out of her way to avoid being hit. It is not uncommon to be walking along the footpath in Ballina and have the driver of a scooter to yell from behind you "Get out of my way". The problem with these vehicles is that most are electric and you do not hear them as they approach from the rear.

A couple of my late mother's friends have also been knocked over in Ballina and sustained serious injuries. The drivers do not stop and as the vehicles are not registered or have any identifying marks on them the reaction from police if you try to report an incident is, "What do you expect us to do about them . If you cannot identify who it was how do you think we can?"

These vehicles should be registered, have some form of insurance and the drivers liable for any injury caused to another person.

It is also common to see someone drive along the footpath, stop in the middle of same and get out and go into a shop leaving the scooter for everyone to walk around. These drivers do not appear disabled in any way but merely use the scooter as a means of transport around town.

Any regulation that will bring about the safe use of mobility scooters cannot come soon enough.

Yours faithfully

Ian Keith